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ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

BEDLINGTONSHIRE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR 1955

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1955

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health concerning the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District for 1955.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year home population was 29,180—an increase of 30 over last year.

The Crude Death Rate was 10.7 per 1,000 estimated population. The uncorrected Birth Rate was 17.5 per 1,000 estimated population. This is a decrease of 0.4 per 1,000 compared with last year. This year there were 511 live births—13 fewer than last year.

It is very pleasing to record a further improvement of the infant mortality rate over last year's record figure. In 1955 there were 10 infant deaths (5 in the first four weeks of life) giving a figure of 19.5 per 1,000 live births for the infantile mortality rate. This is well below the average for the country as a whole.

There were 572 notifications of infectious disease. As usual, measles proved to be the commonest with 381 cases. The second commonest was dysentery with 104 cases. This will be discussed elsewhere in this report.

The other infectious diseases were of little significance, but it should be noted that once again there were no cases of diphtheria notified. The last case of this disease to be notified was in 1950.

Since last year's annual report interest has been aroused in respect of colliery spoil-banks and negotiations have taken place between the Health Department and the National Coal Board. It is hoped that some improvement of the situation will be obtained as a result of these meetings.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their interest during the year and for the co-operation received from the other Council departments. I would also pay tribute to the work carried out by the members of the Health Department during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. DONALDSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health	Alexander Donaldson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector	R. W. Cowans, M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector and Additional Meat and Food Inspector	J. Colpitts, M.S.I.A..
Health Department Clerk	J. H. Hostler (resigned 30/11/55)
Health Department Typist	Miss Patricia Hall
Rodent Operator	Mr. S. Walker
Offices	Front Street, Bedlington
Telephone	Bedlington 2121

STATISTICS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	9,025
Registrar General's Estimate of the Resident Population Mid. 1955	29,180
Rateable Value	£119,759
Penny Rate Produces	£466
Number of Inhabited Houses	8,573

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	264	232	496
Illegitimate	8	7	15
Totals	272	239	511

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	6	10
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	4	6	10

COMPARABILITY FACTORS—Births, 0.97. Deaths ... 1.17

Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... 17.5
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... 16..9
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... 16.9
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 ~~estimated population~~ LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS ... ~~0.34~~ 19.1

Deaths

Male	Female	Total
184	131	315

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... 10.7
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... 12.5

Deaths over 65 years of age

	Male	Female	Total
1950	108	105	213
1951	124	100	224
1952	77	80	157
1953	108	81	189
1954	113	89	202
1955	103	84	187

Deaths from Peurperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List).

NIL.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of Age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	4	9
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Totals	5	5	10

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of Age

All infants per 1,000 live births	19.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births ...	18.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births ...	66.6

COMPARISON OF VITAL STATISTICS (1955) WITH THOSE OF 1954

	1954	1955
Population	29,150	29,180
Live Births	524	511
Still Births	17	10
Uncorrected Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	17.9	17.5
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	17.3	16.9
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	0.58	0.34
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	32.4	19.1
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	10.8	10.7
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	12.6	12.5
Deaths over 65 years of age	202	187
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	26.7	19.5
Number of Infant deaths under 1 year of age	14	10
Neonatal mortality rate (infants under 4 weeks) per 1,000 births	19.0	9.7
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	0.22	0.27
Pulmonary Tuberculosis case rate per 1,000 estimated population	5.6	6.1

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1955

The death of infants under one year numbered 10 and of these 5 died within one month.

The infantile mortality rate was 19.5 per 1,000 live births and the neonatal mortality 9.7 per 1,000 live births.

3 deaths occurred at home and 7 in hospital.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. of Deaths of Infants under 1 year	31	21	17	20	29	20	21	20	14	10
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	58.2	34.0	33.4	38.8	58.8	35.5	38.2	37.3	26.7	19.5

No.	Age	Sex	Place of Death	Cause of Death	Preventable or not	Remarks
1.	9 months	F	Home	Otitis Media	Yes	
2.	4 days	M	Hospital	Congenital Absence of Oesophagus	Not	
3.	1 hour	F	Hospital	Congenital Absence of Urethra	Not	
4.	1 month	M	Hospital	Broncho-Pneumonia (Cerebral Agenesis)	Not	
5.	5 months	M	Hospital	Broncho-Pneumonia (Hydrocephalus)	Not	
6.	1 hour	M	Hospital	Birth Injury	Not	
7.	9 hours	F	Hospital	Congenital Heart Disease	Not	
8.	4 months	M	Home	Broncho-Pneumonia ...	Yes	
9.	4 months	F	Home	Overlaying	Yes	
10.	2 weeks	F	Hospital	Encephalocele	Not	

INFANT MORTALITY

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-9 months	10-12 months	Total under 1 year
Otitis Media	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Congenital Absence of Oesophagus	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Absence of Urethra	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Broncho-Pneumonia (Cerebral Agenesis)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Broncho-Pneumonia (Hydrocephalus)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Cerebral Birth Injury	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Heart Disease	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Broncho Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Overlaying	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Encephalocele	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	4	1	—	—	5	1	3	1	—	10

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1955

Code No.	International Classification	M.	F.	Total
002	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	3	6
012	Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	2
143	Malignant Neoplasm of Floor of Mouth	1	1	2
151	Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	8	6	14
153	Malignant Neoplasm of Large Intestine	4	8	12
154	Malignant Neoplasm of Rectum	6	—	6
155	Malignant Neoplasm of Gall Bladder	1	—	1
156	Malignant Neoplasm of Liver	—	1	1
157	Malignant Neoplasm of Pancreas	1	—	1
162	Malignant Neoplasm of Bronchus or Lung	13	2	15
170	Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	—	2	2
171	Malignant Neoplasm of Cervix Uteri	—	4	4
172	Malignant Neoplasm of Corpus Uteri	—	4	4
177	Malignant Neoplasm of Prostrate or Urethra	3	—	3
180	Malignant Neoplasm of Kidney	2	—	2
193	Malignant Neoplasm of Brain	1	1	2
199	Malignant Neoplasm of Other	1	1	2
201	Hodgkin's Disease	1	—	1
203	Multiple Myelomata	—	1	1
204	Acute Leukaemia	—	1	1
241	Asthma	1	1	2
330	Subarachnoid Haemorrhage	—	1	1
331	Cerebral Haemorrhage	10	13	23
332	Cerebral Thrombosis	8	3	11
334	Hypertensive Encephalopathy	2	—	2
350	Paraysis Agitans	—	1	1
353	Epilepsy	1	—	1
392.2	Otitis Media	—	1	1
401.1	Acute Rheumatic Endocarditis	1	—	1
401.3	Acute Rheumatic Fever	1	—	1
411	Aortic Disease	1	—	1
420	Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease	3	—	3
420.1	Coronary Artery Thrombosis	28	11	39
421	Mitral Incompetence	—	1	1
422	Myocardial Degeneration	22	16	38
422.1	Myocardial Degeneration with Arteriosclerosis	4	2	6
422.2	Myocardial Degeneration with Senility	9	11	20
433.1	Auricular Fibrillation	1	2	3

434.1	Congestive Heart Failure	5	10	15
434.2	Left Ventricuar Failure	1	3	4
434.3	Right Ventricular Failure	1	1	2
450.	Arteriosclerosis	2	—	2
451	Aortic Aneurysm	1	—	1
465	Pulmonary Embolism	2	1	3
480	Influenza with Pneumonia	—	1	1
490	Lobar Pneumonia	1	1	2
491	Broncho Pneumonia	5	—	5
502	Chronic Bronchitis	1	—	1
522	Pumonary Congestion	2	4	6
540	Gastric Ulcer without Perforation	1	—	1
541	Duodenal Ulcer without Perforation	1	—	1
541.1	Duodenal Ulcer with Perforation	1	—	1
542	Gastrojejunal Ulcer	1	—	1
545	Duodenal Obstruction	—	1	1
561	Strangulated Inguinal Hernia	1	—	1
581	Cirrhosis of the Liver	1	—	1
592	Chronic Nephritis	2	—	2
610	Hyperplasia of the Prostrate	3	—	3
744.1	Pseudo Hypertrophic Muscular Dystrophy	1	—	1
751	Spina Bifida and Meningocele	—	1	1
752	Congenital Hyrocephalus	1	—	1
754	Congenital Heart Disease	—	1	1
760	Intracranial Birth Injury	1	—	1
762.5	Atelectasis	1	1	2
794	Senility	4	3	7
E812	Motor Accident to Pedestrian	—	1	1
E903	Fall on Ground Level	—	1	1
E904	Unspecified Fall	1	—	1
E910	Fall-in of Earth	3	—	3
E972	Suicide by Domestic Gas	1	1	2
E978	Suicide by Jumping from a Height	—	1	1
N942	Burn of Trunk	—	1	1
N968	Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	1	—	1
N991	Suffocation	—	1	1
	Totals	184	131	315

CANCER

The number of cancer deaths in 1955 was 69. This is the highest ever recorded in the Shire. There were 41 male and 28 female deaths —each the highest recorded. There has been a definite upward trend in the number of cancer deaths certified since 1936.

The male has a much greater risk from cancer of the lung than the female. The figures for the years 1950—1955 for the various sites are of interest.

Cancer Deaths, 1950—1955

	Bronchogenic		Gastric		Intestinal		Others	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1950	3	—	5	7	8	1	10	12
1951	8	1	9	4	3	3	14	10
1952	8	1	4	4	11	3	13	7
1953	6	3	9	4	7	5	13	12
1954	6	—	9	8	8	6	8	11
1955	13	2	8	6	10	8	10	12
Totals	44	7	44	33	47	26	68	64

CANCER MORTALITY, MALE AND FEMALE SINCE 1936

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Male	17	16	17	18	12	12	12	16	24	19	25	21	22	23	26	34	36	35	31	41
Female	11	31	14	16	14	22	17	14	16	17	20	21	19	21	20	18	15	24	25	28
Total	28	47	31	34	26	34	29	40	50	36	45	42	41	44	46	52	41	59	56	69

It is difficult to form any clear opinion whether there is a real increase in cancer as a disease or whether the increase is a relative one due to increased facilities for diagnosis. Certainly more and more patients are being X-rayed in the course of routine examinations and this allows an early diagnosis to be made. It does not, however, account satisfactorily for the increase in deaths from this disease. Nor does it account for the preponderance of lung cancer in males..

All that can be said is that cancer is the second commonest cause of death at the present time.

CANCER MORTALITY, MALE, 1955

Malignant Neoplasm of	Age Groups									
	0-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65+	TOTALS
Floor of Mouth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Stomach	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	8
Large Intestine	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	5
Rectum	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	2	6
Gall Bladder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pancreas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Lungs and Bronchus	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	1	3	12
Kidney	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Brain	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Scapula	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	—	—	—	1	4	5	7	4	20	41

CANCER MORTALITY, FEMALE, 1955

Malignant Neoplasm of	Age Groups									
	0-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65+	TOTALS
Floor of Mouth	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Stomach	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	6
Large Intestine	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	6	8
Lungs and Bronchus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Liver	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Cervix	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	4
Uterus	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
Spine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Brain	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	—	—	—	3	1	3	2	2	17	28

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES, 1955

Measles

This was the commonest infectious disease notified. There were 381 cases, an increase of 31 over 1954. The disease was mild and there were no deaths.

Dysentery

There were 104 cases of this disease notified during 1955. It was second in the infectious diseases notified. It must be called an epidemic because the disease started in early February and twelve cases were notified by the 18th March. This was not excessive, but all came from the same area. Between the 19th March and the 23rd April (five weeks), 86 cases were notified. The last case was notified at the beginning of June.

This is not a serious disease in itself except to babies and the very old. It seldom kills, but it can cause considerable loss of working and school hours. It can also put an increased burden on the housewife and mother.

It is highly infectious and is spread from bowel to mouth via the hands or anything that infected hands have touched. It infects households like wildfire and is a menace in schools, especially infant schools.

Scrupulous cleanliness and detailed attention to personal hygiene are the best methods of defeating this disease. Washing the hands before eating or preparing food and especially after using the lavatory is of paramount importance.

Scarlet Fever

There were 24 cases of this disease notified in 1955. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough

There were 17 cases notified during the year. This is a very low figure considering there were only 38 cases last year. It may be that whooping cough immunisation is having its effect. Immunisation against this disease. and diphtheria is of the greatest importance.

Food Poisoning

There were five cases notified during the year. These were scattered cases and were not indications of real outbreaks of this disease.. There were no deaths

Acute Poliomyelitis

There was one case notified during the year. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria

For the fifth successive year no cases of this disease have been notified. Once again I must stress the need for all babies to be given the protection of diphtheria immunisation. This can very easily be combined with whooping cough vaccine, reducing the risks from both diseases.

Diphtheria Notifications and deaths in Bedlingtonshire during the 10 year Period 1946-1955:—

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Cases	55	19	5	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	1*	3*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Unprotected.

Measles, Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever Notifications, 1946-1955:—

Years	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Measles ...	194	124	245	228	540	156	406	165	250	381
Whooping Cough	45	36	186	12	133	79	15	215	38	17
Scarlet Fever	7	10	60	31	54	83	84	40	19	24

TUBERCULOSIS. 1955

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified during 1955 was 25 (22 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary). This is 16 less than in 1954 and most satisfactory.

One of the factors in producing this decrease has been the concern felt regarding housing conditions for these cases and the Housing Committee have been most sympathetic in this respect. There is no waiting list for tuberculosis patients as top priority is given for this disease.

During the year 23 contacts were vaccinated at the chest clinic against tuberculosis and a further 91 school children were also done.

There is excellent co-operation between the chest clinic and the Health Department and the general practitioners.

Modern treatment methods have lessened the stay in sanatorium and have reduced the positive sputum carrier to a minimum.

After-care work is carried out by a sub-committee of the East Area Health Sub-committee and considerable assistance is given to the families affected with this disease.

The tuberculosis register showed the following distribution of cases at the end of 1955.

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
96	81	177	26	28	56	231

Notifications

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Pulmonary	18	16	19	18	27	32	24	29	30	22
Non-Pulmonary	2	8	10	7	11	7	7	13	11	3

Deaths

Pulmonary	11	10	4	13	5	5	7	5	6	6
Non-Pulmonary	2	2	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	2

TUBERCULOSIS, 1955—Continued

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non.-Resp.		Resp.		Non.Resp.	
Age	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	6	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
25-35	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
35-45	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
45-55	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Over 65	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	—
Totals	12	10	3	—	3	3	1	1
Grand Totals	22		3		6		2	
	25				8			

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN

	Bac. Coli per 100 ml.
23 Samples from Humford Mill Swimming Baths	Nil
5 Samples from Humford Mill Swimming Baths	1
1 Sample from Humford Mill Swimming Baths	3
1 Sample from Humford Mill Swimming Baths	14
2 Samples from Spring at Grove Villa	Nil
1 Sample from Spring at Grove Villa	1
2 Samples from Spring at Grove Villa	3
1 Sample from Spring at Grove Villa	5
42 Samples from mains supply within the District	Nil
1 Sample from mains supply at Shiney Row	1
2 Samples from mains supply at Moorland Avenue	1
1 Sample from mains supply at Hartford Camp	1
2 Samples from mains supply at Choppington	2
1 Sample from mains supply at Stakeford	2
3 Samples from mains supply at Choppington	3
1 Sample from mains supply at Shiney Row	13
1 Sample from mains supply at W. Sleekburn Pithead Baths	13
2 Samples from mains supply at Choppington	17
1 Sample from mains supply at Moorland Avenue	35
1 Sample from mains supply at Choppington	50
1 Sample from mains supply at Choppington	90
2 Samples from West End Reservoir	Nil
1 Sample from the Water Tower, Hartford Camp	8
1 Sample from the Water Tower, Hartford Camp	40
1 Sample from the Water Tower, Hartford Camp	90
1 Sample from the Water Tower, Hartford Camp	180+
101 Total.	

DISINFESTATION

As in previous years all sewers of the district have been given two treatments by the Council's Rodent Operator as required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Regular attention has also been given to refuse tips and all surface infestations, including houses, gardens, canteens, food premises, etc. have received treatment as and when required.

Action has been taken in 18 cases for bed bugs, 7 at Council houses and 11 at private houses, using Gammexane smoke generators and liquid insecticide.

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Clearance Areas

Dwelling Houses demolished	Nil

Houses not in Clearance Areas

Demolition and Closing Orders Housing Act, 1936

(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11:—

5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Tankerville Yard Bedlington ...	6	
32, 33, 34, 34½, 35, 35½, 36, 36½, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, Ravensworth Terrace, Bedlington Station	14	
5 and 6, Kidd's Yard, Bedlington	2	
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 14, Middle Row, Stakeford	7	
1, 2, School House, Barrington	2	
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Peter Gill's Cottages, Choppington	6	
Whinney Hill Cottage, Choppington	1	
26, 27, Red Row, Bedlington Station	2	
Nos. 1—12, Chapel Row, Choppington	12	
Nos. 1—12 Puddler's Row	12	
		64

(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force	Nil

(c) parts of buildings closed (Section 12)

1, 2, 3, 5, Hollymount Hall, Bedlington	4	
18a, 18b, 18c, Front Street East, Bedlington ...	3	
3, Foggan's Yard	1	
2, Quarry House	1	
		9

Housing Act, 1949

Closed as a result of closing orders substituted for demolition orders under Section 3 ...	Nil

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953

Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10 (1)	Nil

Reconditioning and Repair of Houses

Informal Action

Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of **informal** action by the L.A. under the Housing or Public Health Acts	57

Action under Statutory Powers

Public Health Acts

Houses in which defects were remedied:—

(a) By Owners	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	Nil
Unfit Houses in Temporary Use	Nil
Purchase of Houses by Agreement	Nil

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	182	—	182
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By Private Persons	—		

SUB-STANDARD HOUSES

With the generous allocation of 4 in 5 of all Council houses given to slum clearance, the re-housing of families from sub-standard houses has proceeded at a very satisfactory rate, a rate which could considerably reduce the total programme below the estimated ten years.

The following table shows the sub-standard houses from which families have been re-housed since the war as a result of clearance orders, demolition orders and closing orders. With the occupied huts at Hartford Camp now reduced to 148 the total houses abolished to date is 960.

Families rehoused post-war from Sub-standard Property which has subsequently been demolished or closed (up to 30/4/56)

Bedlington

Fountain Inn, Glebe Row	4	
Glebe Road	65	
Catholic Row	16	
Dowson's Buildings	4	
Sun Inn Yard	6	
Old Colliery Row	20	
Bell's Place	21	
Hollymount Hall	7	
Hollymount Cottages	2	
Vulcan Place	20	
Vicarage Terrace	2	
Old Hall	3	
Chapel Row, East End	1	
Bank Cottages	2	
Murray's Yard	3	
Baptist Yard	3	
Rosella Place	1	
Front Street ,East	4	
Grand View	6	
Foggan's Yard	2	
Quarry Houes	2	
		194

Bedlington Station

Ravensworth Terrace	35	
North Row	42	
Wilkinson's Buildings	5	
Red Row	37	
Bridge House	1	
Bridge End	3	
Dene House	1	
Moorland Cottages	10	
Liddle's Yard	13	
Dene View	2	
Puddler's Row	20	
Cragg's Buildings	5	
Staithe's Quay	2	
Chapel Row, Barrington	11	
Stone Row, Barrington	12	
School House, Barrington	2	
Ivy Cottage	1	
		202.

Netherton

Yard Row	90	
Howard Row	60	
Village	4	
Nedderton Hall	5	
Farm Cottages	4	
		163

Cambois

Railway Bungalows	4	
New Row	10	
Link End	2	
Farm Cottages	1	
		17

Choppington

Blackburn's Buildings	5	
Strong's Buildings	24	
First Row	24	
Second Row	15	
Forster's Buildings	1	
Peter Gill's Cottages	6	
Front Street, Scotland Gate	12	
Colliery Square	2	
Chapel Row	20	
School Row	4	
School House	2	
Richardson's Buildings	7	
Heslop's Buildings	1	
Rutter's Buildings	1	
Whinney Hill Cottage	1	
		125

Guide Post

Front Street	10	
Anvil Cottages	1	
Freehold Terrace	3	
High Street	2	
Ford Terrace	1	
Tulip's Buildings	1	
		18

Stakeford

Middle Row	14	
North View	12	
West View	5	
		31

West Sleekburn

South Row	1	
		1
Total Number of Houses		751
Army Huts at Wansbeck Place		29
Army Huts at Hartford Camp		209
Total ...		989

INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF HOUSES

Although the larger part of the work on housing has perhaps dealt with slum clearance, demands have also been made for the repair of the better class of property. The main handicaps in this direction were the high cost of repairs and the unwillingness of contractors to give their time to smaller jobs.

During the year 266 complaints were recorded and dealt with. In only 12 cases was it found necessary to resort to formal action, even though in many cases major works such as the complete re-slating of roofs was required.

Repairs Effected

Roofs completely re-slated	22
Roofs repaired	14
Chimney Stacks	2
Eavesgutters	3
Fallspouts	3
Walls (External)	4
Walls (Internal)	14
Dampness Remedied	12
Ceilings Renewed	9
Floors	9
Windows	9
Doors	7
Fireplaces and Flues	7
Scullery Benches	2
Yard Surfaces	1
W.C. Basins Renewed	6
Water Closets Repaired	8
Drains Repaired	2
Drains Provided	7
Waste Pipes Repaired	2
Waste Pipes Provided	8
Sinks Provided	8
Internal Water Supply Provided	8
Water Supply Pipes Repaired	65
Dustbins Provided	49
Other Nuisances	6

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1.—Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	18	22	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	89	125	8	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises	—	—	—	—
Total	107	147	10	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Overcrowding	1	1	—	—	—
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	10	8	—	—	—
Total	14	11	—	—	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

There are now 40 registered milk retailers licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk within the district. All the milk is sold in bottles as it is received.

25 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, 23 for bacteriological examination and 2 for biological examination. One of the latter was found to be negative and free from Tuberculosis whilst the other test proved inconclusive.

	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Raw Milk	1	1	Nil
Pasteurised Milk ...	20	20	Nil
Sterilised Milk ...	2	2	Nil

Ice Cream

There are still the same 3 ice-cream manufacturers in the district, 2 of them making ice-cream by means of the heat treatment method as laid down in the Ice-cream Heat Treatment Regulations, 1947 and the other by the Cold Mix Process. These premises are inspected regularly and a high standard of cleanliness is always maintained.

24 samples of ice-cream were taken during the year. 16 were Grade 1, 2 were Grade 2, 3 were Grade 3, 4 were Grade 4.

5 samples of Iced Lollipops were submitted for bacteriological examination and were found to be satisfatcory.

Meat Inspection

Slaughtering of food animals is still carried on at 8 slaughter houses throughout the district. One cannot yet foresee the promised public abattoirs that were to be built at the end of decontrol by the Ministry of Food and it is evident that we shall have to be content with the small private slaughter houses for a long time to come.

The inspection of pigs slaughtered for the wholesale market continues to occupy a considerable amount of time even though slaughtering on Sundays has now been stopped..

EXAMINATION OF CARCASES

	No. Inspected	No. Affected with Tuberculosis	% of Carcases Affected with Tuberculosis
Steers	550	27	4.91%
Heifers	699	41	5.87%
Cows	80	13	16.25%
Bulls	3	1	33.3%
Calves	17	1	5.88%
Sheep	3,433	—	—
Pigs (not sows)	6,752	349	5.17%
Sows	281	32	11.39%
Boars	17	2	11.77%
Totals	11,832	466	

WHOLE CARCASES CONDEMNED DURING 1955

1 cow	440 lbs.	Emaciation and Oedema
1 cow	290 lbs.	Emaciation and Oedema
1 cow	508 lbs.	Emaciation and Oedema
1 cow	594 lbs.	Septic Mastitis
1 calf	71 lbs.	Ill bled and Oedematous
1 calf	164 lbs.	Emaciation
1 calf	320 lbs.	Generalised Tuberculosis
7 sheep ...	262 lbs.	Emaciation and Oedema
4 pigs	339 lbs.	Moribund and Ill bled
1 pig	50 lbs.	Emaciation
1 pig	94 lbs.	Miliary Tuberculosis
1 pig	95 lbs.	Congestion
1 pig	124 lbs.	Lymphadenitis
1 pig	62 lbs.	General Inflammation and Abscesses

OTHER MEAT, ORGANS, ETC., CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Bovine Animals

Beef	Tuberculosis, 577 lbs; Abscesses, 630 lbs.; Bone Taint, 180 lbs.; Blood Splashing, 120 lbs. and Congestion, 97 lbs.
Heads and Tongues	Tuberculosis, 41; Necrosis, 1; Abscesses, 2.
Lungs	Stomach Contents, 186; Tuberculosis, 48; Pleurisy, 15; Flukes, 48; Abscesses, 3; Degenerated Cysts, 2.
Livers	Cirrhosis: 83 whole livers and 113 part livers; Abscesses: 28 whole livers and 7 part livers. Flukes: 1 whole liver and 3 part livers. Tuberculosis, 13; Inflammation, 1. Necrosis, 1; Angioma, 2; Fatty Infiltration, 1.
Hearts	Abscesses, 1; Tuberculosis, 2; Pericarditis, 2.
Kidneys	Nephritis, 2; Retention Cysts, 2.
Skirts	Tuberculosis, 1; Inflammation, 1.
Mesenteric Fat	Tuberculosis, 2.
Udders	Induration, 5..

Sheep

Mutton	Decomposition, 136 lbs.; Congestion, 51 lbs.; Abscesses, 3 lbs.
Plucks	Pleurisy, 3; Flukes, 1; Inflammation, 4; Abscesses, 3; Cysts, 2.
Lungs	Parasites, 1; Pneumonia, 25; Pleurisy, 1.
Livers	Degenerated Cysts, 2; Flukes, 9; Cirrhosis, 1; Fatty Infiltration, 1.

Pigs

Pork	Decomposition, 105 lbs.; Tuberculosis, 84 lbs.; Abscesses, 15 lbs.; Congestion, 5 lbs.; Arthritis, 12 lbs.
Heads	Tuberculosis, 385; Abscesses, 1.
Plucks	Tuberculosis, 26; Hydatid Cysts, 11; Inflammation, 119; Abscesses, 4; Milk Spots, 6; Cirrhosis, 45; Decomposition, 15; Pneumonia and Pleurisy, 7.
Lungs	Pneumonia and Pleurisy, 1,518; Congestion, 9.
Livers	Abscesses, 1; Cysts, 2; Inflammation, 7; Milk Spots, 1.
Kidneys	Retention Cysts, 6; Nephritis, 6.

OTHER FOODS EXAMINED AND FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Tomatoes	81 tins
Other Fruit	61 tins
Peas and Beans	18 tins
Milk	30 tins
Meat	81 tins
Corned Beef	90 lbs.
Ham	32 lbs.
Tongue	21 lbs.
Sausage	57 lbs.
Soups	6 tins
Jams	2 jars
Fish	45 tins
Sugar	60 lbs.
Spaghetti	2 tins

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